

Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

The Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) is a random telephone survey, coordinated through the Centers for Disease Control, which collects information from adults on health behaviors and knowledge related to leading causes of death in each of the states. Approximately 200 interviews were obtained from the Putnam County community. About half of all deaths occurring annually are now attributed to modifiable behavioral risks. In addition to determining what types of health risks are most prevalent in the population, the BRFS data will be very useful in determining what types of interventions are most needed for other health problems such as excess deaths from a particular chronic disease. A modified version of the standard BRFS was developed specifically for the “Community Diagnosis” process. In addition to the questions on the standard BRFS survey, a series of health issues are listed. The respondent is asked if the issue is a “Definite Problem”, “Somewhat of a Problem”, “Not a Problem”, or “Not Sure”. The list of the health issues with frequency of response as a “Definite Problem” is as follows:

Tobacco Use	56%	Top Ten Issues Highlighted
High Blood Pressure	40%	
Alcohol Abuse	39%	
Cancer	38%	
Heart Conditions	36%	
Arthritis	36%	
Obesity	36%	
Teen Pregnancy	35%	
Drug Abuse	35%	
Animal Control	20%	
Health Problems of the Lungs	17%	
Violence in the Home	16%	
Diabetes	14%	
Environmental Issues	14%	
STD'S	9%	
Mental Health Problems	8%	
Other Violence	6%	
Suicide	2%	

Putnam County's Access to Care Issues Percent Saying Definite Problem

Access to Assisted Living Services	12%
Access to Dental Care	8%
Transportation to Health Care	8%
Access to Nursing Home Care	8%
Access to Physicians or Doctors	7%
Access to Hospitals	5%
Access to Prenatal Care	5%
Access to Birth Control Methods	2%